

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action dated April 10, 2006, and the references cited therewith.

Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, and 11 are amended. Claims 1-12 remain pending in this application.

§102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) for anticipation by Blatti (U.S. 6,396,690).

Claims 1-6

Claim 1 has been amended to better describe the subject matter recited in the claim. Applicant believes amended claim 1 is not anticipated by the cited reference since the reference does not include each limitation recited in the claim. For instance, Applicant cannot find in the cited reference: at least one of the sidewalls having at least one lateral bulge oriented in a direction from an inside of the guide rails to an outside, the bulge of the at least one sidewall corresponding with at least one electrically conductive contact area at a lower edge of the circuit board when the circuit board is completely inserted. In contrast, the Blatti reference discussed guide members 37 having upper and lower rails 41, 43 which have two narrower interstices 47. These interstices 47 are directed toward the middle line of guide members 37. Thus the interstices are not "at least one lateral bulge oriented in a direction from an inside of the guide rails to an outside," as recited in claim 1. Moreover, Blatti discusses that rails 41, 43 can be formed of sheet metal since the portions of PCI cards which come in contact with support bracket 31 are electrically insulated by a plastic card extender 67. Accordingly, Blatti does not include "the bulge of the at least one sidewall corresponding with at least one electrically conductive contact area at a lower edge of the circuit board when the circuit board is completely inserted," as recited in claim 1.

Claims 2-6 include each limitation of claim 1 and are therefore also not anticipated by the cited reference. Moreover, Applicant cannot find in the Blatti reference, that the sidewalls are separated from the bottom of the guide rail in the area of the at least one bulge so that a slit-like

opening is created, as recited in dependent claim 5. Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Claims 7-12

Claim 7 has been amended to better describe the subject matter recited in the claim. Applicant believes amended claim 7 is not anticipated by the cited reference since the reference does not include each limitation recited in the claim. For instance, Applicant cannot find in the cited reference: one or more guide rails attached to the frame and adapted to hold a circuit board, each guide rail having a bottom and a pair of sidewalls, at least one of the pair of sidewalls having at least one lateral bulge oriented in a direction from an inside of the guide rails to an outside. As discussed above, the Blatti reference discusses guide members 37 having upper and lower rails 41, 43 which have two narrower interstices 47. These interstices 47 are directed toward the middle line of guide members 37. Thus the interstices are not "at least one lateral bulge oriented in a direction from an inside of the guide rails to an outside," as recited in claim 1.

Claims 7-12 include each limitation of claim 7 and are therefore also not anticipated by the cited reference. Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (612) 359-3267 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.


Respectfully submitted,

VOLKER HAAG ET AL.

By their Representatives,

SCHWEGMAN, LUNDBERG, WOESSNER & KLUTH, P.A.
P.O. Box 2938
Minneapolis, MN 55402
(612) 359-3267

Date 9/11/06

By 
Peter C. Maki
Reg. No. 42,832

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 11th day of September 2006.

Name: PATRICIA A. HULTMAN

Signature: 